

Pers Shaul, Dennis
CIA 2-04-2 Students

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YOUTH FESTIVAL DELEGATES HAD CIA FINANCING

By a Special Correspondent of
the Post-Dispatch

AKRON, O., Feb. 18.—American students attending the 1962 Helsinki Youth Festival on funds provided by the Central Intelligence Agency helped turn the event into a "disaster" for its Communist sponsors, a former president of the National Student Association told the Post-Dispatch today.

Dennis Shaul, president of the organization in 1962-63 and a delegate to the youth festival, said one quarter to one third of the expenses for the more than 80 American students attending the affair came from the CIA through the Independent Research Service of Washington.

"Their object was to make it difficult for the Soviet Union to dominate the event and capture the minds of the students attending it," Shaul said in an interview with the Post-Dispatch.

Delegates Walked Out

The event, called the Eighth World Youth Festival for Peace and Friendship by its Communist organizers, was held in Helsinki, Finland, in July of 1962. In the two-week affair, anti-Communist sentiment was strong and several delegates from unaligned countries walked out of meetings in a snub to their Communist hosts.

Shaul said American students created anti-Communist sentiment in meetings and seminars held for the 25,000 students in attendance. After the festival, several youths from Communist bloc countries defected to the West.

At that time, Soviet newspapers charged that riots against the festival were carried out by persons "purchased by the State Department and the Central Intelligence Agency."

Shaul said the students in the American delegation were given no instructions by the CIA, but were free to express whatever views they wished.

Money for Many Groups

It has been revealed that CIA money has gone to numerous academic, national and international organizations. The National Student Association, largest student group in the United States, is one of these.

Shaul, now an attorney here, told the Post-Dispatch that when he became president in August 1962, he was informed that CIA money was available to the student association.

He said the outgoing president, Edward Garvey, a graduate student at the University of Wisconsin, informed him of the arrangement. "Ed told me that Government funds were available but that I would have the right to terminate the arrangement if I desired. I decided to continue it on certain conditions," Shaul explained.

"The conditions were that the money would not be used so that the priorities of the Student Congress (NSA's ruling body) would be upset, that we not take so much money that we would become financially dependent on the Government, and on the condition that there would not be any attempt to pressure us into conducting certain programs."

Gifts From Others

Shaul said the NSA received the CIA funds through the Independence Foundation of Boston during his term as president, which ended in August 1963. "I would guess that our total budget was about \$400,000, of which \$100,000 to \$150,000 came from the CIA," Shaul said. In this time, the student association received money also from the Ford, Rockefeller, Field and New World Foundations, he said.

To his knowledge, Shaul said, only one other person knew of the CIA arrangement within the association. That person was a member of the international committee of the association. "I'm sure very few people knew of the arrangement," he said.

The student association conducts national affairs programs and international affairs programs. Shaul asserted that none of the CIA money was used to finance programs dealing with national affairs.

Sought Financing

The CIA never asked the student association to conduct specific programs overseas, Shaul said. Rather, the association drew up programs it wished to conduct and then sought financing for them. He admitted that the availability of CIA money had an influence on some of the projects the association decided to conduct. Shaul said that to his knowledge he was never directly approached by a member of the intelligence organization.

Charges that the National Student Association was a "tool" of the CIA are "really preposterous," Shaul asserted. He said the association often took public stands in opposition to or critical of stated Government policy.

As an example, he cited the fact that the organization sponsored the education of a number of anti-French Algerian students in the late 1950s when the United States policy was pro-French. In addition, the NSA strongly criticized the

United States action in resumption of nuclear testing.

"I'm sure that some elements in the CIA questioned giving us financial aid but I think that others argued that when we took such positions it made us more credible abroad," Shaul explained. The organization has been criticized by some as being ultraliberal.

Shaul believes the idea of Government assistance for student organizations originated in the Department of State but was shunted to the CIA for implementation.

The advantages of the covert arrangement were several, Shaul said. He said he felt the Government would have found it hard to justify giving financial assistance to a liberal organization and the CIA arrangement did not require the Government to make any accounting of the money.

The secret financing also permitted American students going overseas to be judged merely as students rather than being suspected as agents.

"Most American students abroad never felt any need to express any views other than their own honest ideas," Shaul asserted. "Most were well-recognized campus leaders and were extremely wary of being dubbed as mouthpieces for the American Government. None of them was aware of the financing," Shaul said to his knowledge no CIA agents posed as

Sent Students Overseas

The CIA financed programs through the National Student Association that included sending American students overseas, educating foreign students in the United States and conducting student exchange programs. Shaul told the Post-Dispatch. He said the CIA money often went to finance meetings of student organizations in foreign countries, technical assistance and office help for these organizations, and, in some cases, CIA money paid the rent for student group headquarters.

"I think it would be fair to say that the aim was to keep groups of pro-American students active, especially in coun-

tries with strong leftist student organizations," Shaul explained.

"The reason the (CIA-NSA) relationship continued is that fund-raising is so difficult for student organizations and that there are strings attached no matter who finances your projects. Other foundations have pet projects, too," he said.

Shaul said the student association erred after he left it by "getting too close to the source of their funds." He said the NSA moved its headquarters from Philadelphia to Washington, where it occupied quarters financed by the CIA.

He called the publicity surrounding the CIA financing "sensational and needless." Shaul explained, "The publicity has prejudiced contacts made over the last 15 years. And those responsible have not thought out the repercussions."

He continued, "Any student from an emerging country who studied in the United States is now going to be pegged by the leftist elements as a puppet of the United States. In one fell swoop, this is defeating all the good that has been done."

Shaul is a graduate of the University of Notre Dame and was a Rhodes scholar.